

National Phase applications derived from International PCT applications.

Under the provisions of §1.475(a), an International application shall relate to one invention only or to a group if inventions so linked as to form a single general inventive concept. Further, in accordance with this provision, the requirement of unity of invention is fulfilled when there is a technical relationship among those inventions involving one or more of the same or corresponding special technical features. In accordance with this rule, the expression "special technical features" means those features that define a contribution which each of the claimed inventions, considered as a whole, makes over the prior art.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims of GROUPS I and II are linked so as to form a single general inventive concept in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.475(a). A careful review of the pending claims 1-30, on one hand, which are drawn to a security element, and claims 31-45, on the other hand, which are drawn to a process for making such security element, reveal that the technical features of the claims exist in common between the two sets of claims to thereby link them in a manner satisfying the requirements of Rule 475.

The Examiner's attention is invited to the special technical feature common to both independent claims 1 and 31 of "a printed layer" or "a printing ink" which has "dispersion particles with monomodal or oligomodal size distribution."

It is clearly evident that independent claims 1 and 31 are drawn to a single general inventive concept and that both claims satisfy the requirements of unity of invention pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.475 and 37 C.F.R. 1.499.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the restriction between the claims of GROUPS I and II is respectfully requested.

If any issues remain that may be resolved by a telephone or facsimile communication with the applicant's attorney, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the numbers shown below.

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Respectfully submitted,



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